

**ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION**

A concrete-based mortar is prepared for application on the exterior of a concrete building or other structure. The drying time of the concrete-based mortar is reduced by addition of an accelerant compound. After the concrete-based mortar sets on the building or other structure, an exterior skin of the concrete-based mortar is removed. This provides an even and attractive surface while reducing the amount of labor time required to complete the application.